

DCI

Talking Points for 13 August Meeting  
with Secretary Shultz

SUBJECT: Stokes Letter Requiring Sworn Testimony of Witnesses  
Before the House Intelligence Committee

- o This is a marked departure from established Committee practices and normal rules and can only be interpreted as a demonstration of mistrust in intelligence agencies.
- o The letter does not ask for a response, and we do not plan to provide one. As a first step, we intend to work with Committee staff to narrow the scope of the requirement as much as possible, i.e., to formal testimony at covert action hearings before the full Committee. Meanwhile, we intend to make it clear to Stokes through his staff that we consider the entire idea to represent an unfair and unnecessary overreaction to the Iran/Contra affair that will be counterproductive to rebuilding the spirit of trust and cooperation that must exist between the Executive Branch and Congress.
- o The staff is already aware of (and to some extent sympathetic to) our objections and has informally suggested that if we go along with the procedure for the time being it is likely that the Committee will quietly drop the requirement once the Iran/Contra affair recedes from attention. For its part, the Senate intelligence committee has given no indication that it intends to follow Stokes' lead.

Attachment